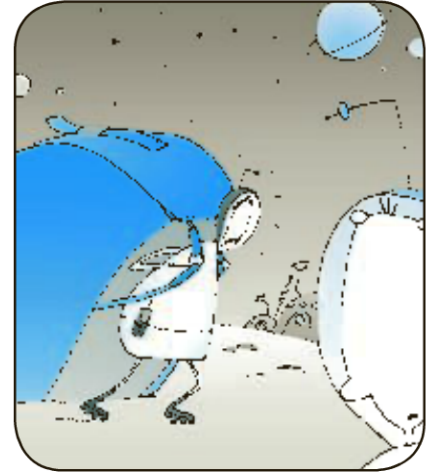


Simple Verb Tenses

A verb does more than express an action or link the subject to another word in a sentence. A verb also expresses tense, or time. A good place to begin a study of verb tenses is with the three simple tenses: **present**, **past**, and **future**. (See page 770 in *Texas Write Source* for more information.)



Examples

Present Tense:

John walks up to me, his backpack dragging on the ground.

Past Tense:

John walked up to me, his backpack dragging on the ground.

Future Tense:

John will walk up to me, his backpack dragging on the ground.

Directions

Underline the verb twice in each of the following sentences. Then put each sentence in a different “time zone.” That is, rewrite each sentence twice, using the verb in all three simple tenses. (Also, underline the verbs with two lines in your new sentences.) The first one has been done for you.

1. **Present:** My battery-driven car bumps into the furniture.

Past: My battery-driven car bumped into the furniture.

Future: My battery-driven car will bump into the furniture.

2. **Present:** _____

Past: I called the folks at the AAA auto club to help me.

Future: _____

3. Present: _____

Past: _____

Future: *In two minutes flat, the person from AAA will start my car.*

4. Present: *Mikey balances two dozen paperbacks on his head at once.*

Past: _____

Future: _____

5. Present: _____

Past: *The books slid off in all directions.*

Future: _____

6. Present: _____

Past: _____

Future: *The class will laugh uproariously.*

Next Step Write one sentence about your last summer. Now put it in present and future tenses. Write one sentence about your next summer. Then rewrite it in past and present tenses.